

To: Ladue Mayor Nancy F. Spewak  
Ladue City Council

From: McPherson Moore, Chair of the Zoning and Planning Commission

Date: August 9, 2021



**Recommendation in favor of approving a text amendment regarding modifications to the regulations regarding wireless communications**

The Zoning and Planning Commission conducted a meeting on July 28, 2021, to discuss and hear comments regarding a proposed text amendment that would amend the regulation of wireless communication antennas and towers in the Zoning Ordinance.

City Planner, Andrea Sukanek, presented the proposed changes to the code. She stated that these changes were recommended by the Cellular Service Advisory Committee, which met during the fall of 2020 through the spring of 2021. The goal of the amendment is to consolidate and simplify the code and to eliminate any requirements that might be so restrictive that they are preventing wireless companies from installing the antennas necessary for reliable service.

The proposed amendment would change the restrictions regarding stealth towers by allowing them without a Special Use Permit in commercial zoning districts, as well as loosening the height restrictions for stealth towers. In addition, concealed antennas would be allowed on any non-residential property in a residential zoning district.

The amendment would also change the requirements for antennas installed on utility poles. If a proposed new or modified utility pole does not exceed fifteen (15) feet above the tallest existing pole within a ¼ mile radius, it would be considered a permitted use and would not require a Special Use Permit. The proposal would also eliminate the requirement that antennas not be more than fifteen (15) feet above the highest power line on the pole.

A Special Use Permit would still be required for antennas and poles that do not meet the criteria to be considered a permitted use. The Zoning and Planning Commission would be allowed some discretion to allow antenna heights based on the needs of the wireless provider.

Charlie Hiemenz, the Chair of the Cellular Service Advisory Committee, addressed the Commission and further described the Committee's process in determining these recommendations. He and the Advisory Committee believe these changes should help to improve cellular service in the community.

The Commission agreed that improved cell service is needed in Ladue and felt that the proposed changes would have a positive impact on cell service in the community with minimal impact on the community's aesthetics.

After discussion, a recommendation for approval of the Special Use Permit, with conditions, was approved by a vote of four (4) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

Date:

8-9-2021

McPherson Moore

Chair, Zoning and Planning Commission